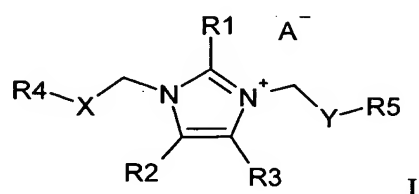


## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Imidazolium compounds of formula I

compound of formula (I)



wherein:

A<sup>-</sup> is an anion;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are the same or different and are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, aryl, fused aryl, or heteroaryl; or are substituted aryl, fused aryl or heteroaryl;

X and Y are the same or different and are -CH<sub>2</sub>, -C=O, -CHOH, -C=S, or -C=NR<sub>6</sub>;

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are the same or different and are aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, or substituted heteroaryl; and

R<sub>6</sub> is aryl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, OH, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, or aryloxy.

are useful as inhibitors of a chemokine receptor known as CXCR3 and its equivalent chemokine receptors.